

JUN 15 2000

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AlthouseFMP
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~~Dear~~ Neighbor and Interested Citizen:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has begun planning the Althouse Forest Management Project on BLM managed lands in the Althouse watershed. In an effort to best inform and involve our publics, this letter represents our second effort to solicit scoping input on this project. Our decision to send out a second scoping letter is based on the identification of additional BLM lands in the watershed that should be considered as part of the planning area, and our desire to expand our project mailing list.

We are sending you this letter because you live or own property near the project area, have been involved in previous BLM projects planned for or implemented in this area, have a special interest in this watershed, or have requested to be informed about projects of this type. The enclosed new map shows the planning area for this project. Our project planning work will consider all the BLM lands in the planning area. We are doing this to provide for a more comprehensive consideration of the resource conditions and management needs.

We ~~are in~~ one of the first steps in the preparation of the environmental analysis (EA) that will ~~present and~~ evaluate the impacts of our proposals. It is a step referred to by planners as "scoping." The principal purpose of scoping is the early identification of site specific resource concerns, the identification of unique or sensitive features in the project planning area, and the identification of issues and concerns specific to the project area that we should consider during project planning.

Examples of the kind of information we would like to learn about at this point include: Are there any sites that you know are important or popular recreation sites? Do you know of any old mines or conditions that we should attend to as a part of this project? Do you know of any sites of rare or unique plants, or areas you know to be used by rare or endangered animals? Are there any springs on the project area that you rely on for your domestic water? Are there roads that need erosion control work? Are there areas that you know are a particularly important source for special forest products? Are there areas in need of "restoration work," such as stream enhancement or fish habitat improvement? Are there road closures or road restoration within the area which should be considered? Are there areas that you know are a particularly important source for special forest products such as poles, mushrooms or medicinal herbs? Are there areas where the fire hazard is especially high? Do you know of opportunities to compliment fire hazard reduction work planned for lands adjacent to BLM administered land?

While we do not yet have specific project proposals, our recent projects of this type have included a mix of riparian restoration work, forest stand thinning and timber harvesting,

prescribed burning and understory thinning to reduce fire hazard, young forest stand thinning and brushing, development of recreation opportunities and various types of road work. The Althouse project will most likely include similar proposals. In all of our projects we pay particular attention to stream and riparian protection.

At times our planning work will be much more efficient if we are able to cross adjacent private land for our inventory work. We would appreciate your assistance with this. We will, of course, contact the landowner for permission prior to crossing private property.

It is important to keep in mind that this project is part of the implementation of the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan and the BLM's 1995 Medford District Resource Management Plan (RMP). When developing this project, these plans will provide the context along with many of the objectives and constraints that we must consider. Many resource allocation decisions were made in these plans, decisions that we will not be revisiting in the present project planning and environmental analysis. Copies of these plans and the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan are available through the Josephine County library system. The Northwest Forest Plan can also be found on the Internet at www.or.blm.gov/ForestPlan/VWFPTitl.htm.

Early comments are especially helpful to us. This is not, however, the only opportunity you will have to comment on this project. Later, when we have specific project proposals and have prepared the EA, there will be an opportunity for public review and comment.

If at any time over the next few months you would like more information or would like to talk with us about this project, please feel free to contact me at (541) 618-2303 or Leslie Welch at (541) 618-2435. Please send your written comments to me at the above addresses or you can e-mail them to me at or110mb@or.blm.gov.

Individuals sometimes prefer to comment confidentially. If providing a confidential response is important to you, you may request that we withhold your name and/or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. Please state this clearly at the beginning of your Written comment. We will honor your request to the extent allowed by law. All comments received from organizations or officials of organizations, businesses or government agencies will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

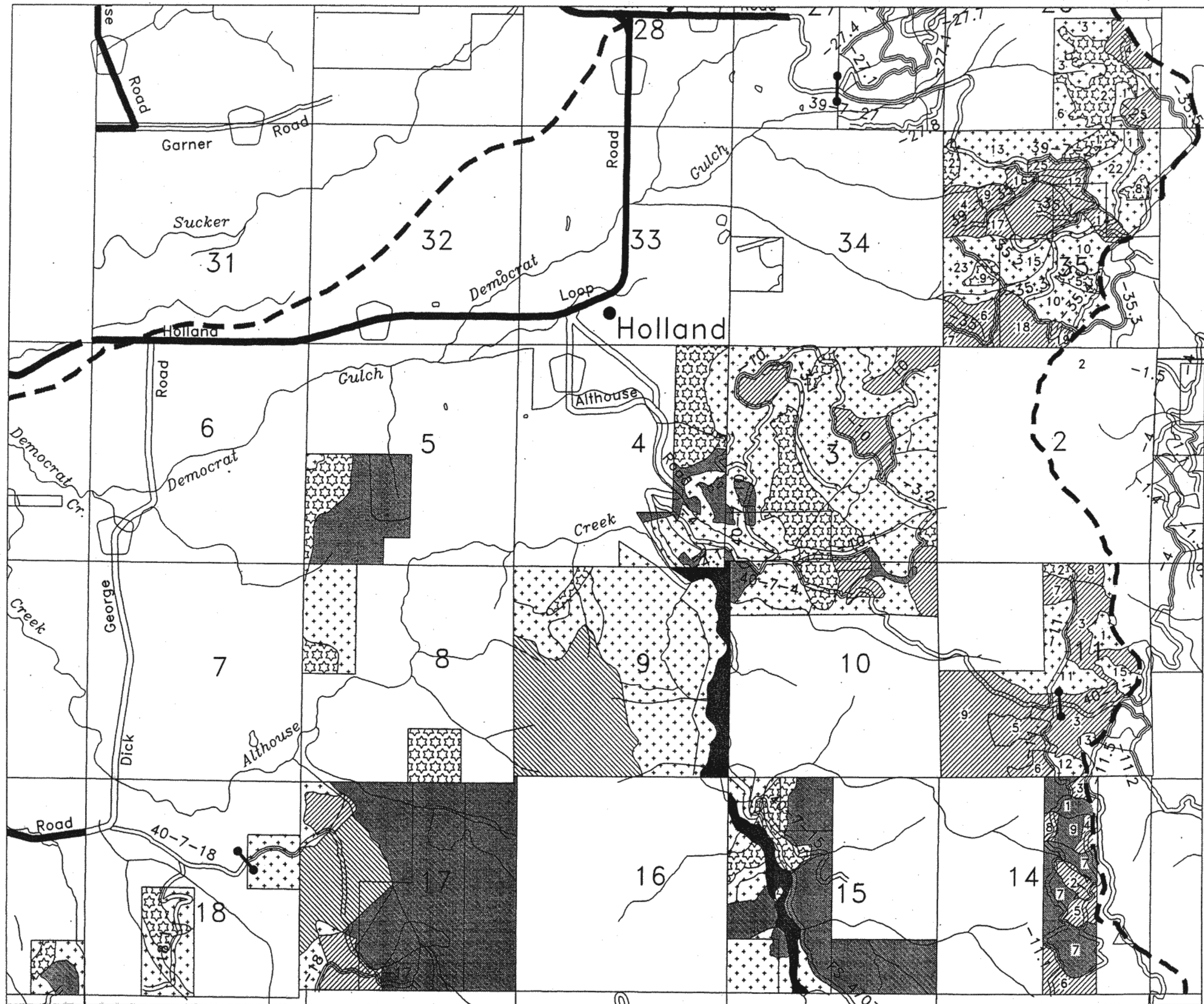
Sincerely,

JOHN PRENDERGAST

John Prendergast
Field Manager
Grants Pass Resource Area

Enclosure (as stated)

ALTHOUSE LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PROJECT SCOPING MAP


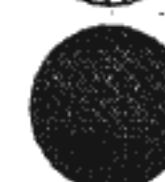





T39S
T40S





Legend

1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000
SCALE IN FEET

-  Jeffery Pine Restoration
-  Riparian Restoration
-  Althouse Watershed boundary

-  Forested areas suitable for commercial treatment
-  Non-forested areas-not suitable for commercial treatment. Suitable for non-commercial treatments.

-  Young forests suitable for non-commercial treatment
-  BLM lands not considered for treatments at this time.

February 18, 2000